

Environmentally-Friendly Company Sets Sights On Being Ergonomically-Friendly With Help From Gorbels G-Force®

An international distributor of sustainable, environmentally friendly office space had recently opened a new facility in the south, and was looking to optimize the safety of its employees in high risk applications. One of the first areas targeted was the receiving area for raw materials, which handles incoming sheets of glass. A typical sheet of the glass is 3 feet by 6 feet, and weight about 115 pounds. The sheets are brought in a large A-frames, and moved onto carts where they go on to be framed.

Shipments are received a few times each week, with as many as 80 lifts required in a single shift and two workers required to do the lifting. It was clear to the management very early that there was too much at risk to leave the application as it was.

“We had a few small injuries,” said the manufacturing manager. “Mostly injuries to hands and fingers. We did not have any back injuries yet, but it was coming. We didn’t want to wait for it.”

With facilities in other areas of North America, the company looked to similar applications for what was successful and what was not. “A very similar application in another facility used a crane as well, but they had a chain hoist to lift the glass. It was very slow, not smooth enough, and operators didn’t feel they had enough control to set the glass down gently. Eventually the workers pushed it off to the side.”

After seeing a demonstration of the G-Force® by Gorbels, the company purchased a G-Force® Q with 330 pound lifting capacity and a remote mounted handle integrated with a Schmalz vacuum lifter. The tooling allows a single user to grip the sheet of glass and tilt it into position. The range of motion of the G-Force® allows the users to keep a fast working pace and then very gently place the sheets onto the carts.

Since installing the G-Force®, the management is very satisfied with the results, and the workers were also very happy to have the new lifting method.

“I am very happy with it,” said one of the operators. “Especially on the larger pieces of glass, it saves us a lot of personnel time. We’re able to run things a lot smoother, able to move from job to job and not worry about maneuvering the a-frames because of the different sizes of glass.”

“Everyone likes it,” said the manufacturing engineer. “They love the smooth fingertip control. It makes the work so much easier.”

With the G-Force®, there have been no injuries, improved productivity, and no product damage.





“Worker safety was number 1, and that’s been successful. We were able to move the second worker to another operation which improves our productivity. And finally, when you’re handling glass you worry about damage – and we haven’t had any.”